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Letter dated 26 March 1991 from the Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to condemn the decision by Israel, the occupying Power, to continue its deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory.

According to The New York Times of 25 March 1991, the Israeli Defence Minister has ordered the deportation of four residents of the Gaza Strip suspected of directing and taking part in violent acts against Israel. They are: Jamal Abid El Nasser Abu Jabal, 23; Muin Mohammad Husam, 31; Hashim Ahmed Ali, 31, all from Jabaliya refugee camp; and Jamal Mohammad Abu-Eljedian, 34, from Beit Lahiaya. The deportations were ordered following recent stabbing attacks against Israelis, although the four men have not been accused of involvement in any of the attacks.

The New York Times also reported that since the beginning of the intifadah, Israel has deported at least 69 Palestinians, in violation of article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and several resolutions of the Security Council.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is gravely concerned at the increasing imposition of harsh collective punishment against the population of the occupied Palestinian territory, such as curfews, school closings, administrative detention, and other repressive measures contrary to Israel's obligations as the occupying Power. The Committee is also greatly concerned at recent statements by Israeli officials indicating an intention to increase the number and size of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian

territory and showing intransigence towards efforts to promote a just political settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

In light of these disturbing developments, the Committee wishes to reaffirm the imperative need for the international community, and in particular the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for its obligations under the Convention, and to take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection for the Palestinians living under occupation, as well as to redouble its efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 23, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON de QUESADA
Acting Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People